

CONTINUATION OF
DISPATCHCLASSIFICATION
S E C R E T

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

TO: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

FROM: Chief of Station, Santiago

The efforts of the MAPU [REDACTED] to promote a constitutional reform providing for a runoff in the presidential election seems to have run on the rocks. The "Political Committee" of the Popular Unity (UP) movement met on 16 February to discuss the MAPU proposal and decided not to support it. The main opposition within the UP came from the PR and PS who strongly opposed the suggested amendment on a variety of grounds including their belief that it would interfere with the normal progression of the presidential campaign. Forwarded herewith are a number of newspaper clippings dealing with the matter including El Siglo's report of the UP decision. The MAPU was given "freedom of action" to pursue its proposal as desired, but since it is a relatively small group this is no real concession. According to El Siglo, the Senate "Constitution, Legislation and Justice Commission" agreed on 16 February to defer until 17 March its final decision on the project. Since both the UP and PN are now on record as opposing the constitutional amendment, it seems most unlikely that it will prosper--at least before the coming presidential election. For Communist thinking on the subject during early February please see [REDACTED]

Attachment: H/W
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